

DUPONT CORRECTIVE ACTION EAST CHICAGO, IN

BACKGROUND:

- The approximately 450-acre chemical facility was purchased by DuPont in 1936. Historic lead and arsenic releases from the facility contaminated adjacent neighborhoods that are part of the USS Lead Superfund Site.
- In June 1997, DuPont and EPA entered into a RCRA Corrective Action Order.
- In August 2004, DuPont entered into a federal consent decree relating to CERCLA natural resource damages that required DuPont to establish a conservation easement on the 172-acre Natural Area at its facility. The Natural Area Final Decision was issued in 2014.
- In July 2018, after an extended public comment period and community involvement, EPA issued the 2018 Final Decision that detailed the required cleanup work at the facility's former industrial area.
- In November 2018, EPA and the current and previous owners of the facility agreed to the \$26.6 million cleanup of the facility. DuPont, Chemours, and East Chicago Gateway Partners, LLC agreed to perform cleanup work under a RCRA 3008(h) Order.
- In August 2019, EPA approved the Remedial Construction Phase I Work Plan that details the design, construction, and operation requirements for the cleanup.

KEY POINTS:

- In August 2019, work on the RCRA final remedy began at the former facility to clean up arsenic, lead, cadmium, and zinc in the soil and arsenic from the groundwater.
- Contractors hired by the facility owners monitored air quality for the nearby residents and on-site workers. They also conducted numerous geophysical surveys in preparation for the start of source area soil removal and groundwater well installation.
- The Phase I Work Plan also required an extensive community involvement plan to keep the community informed throughout the cleanup process.
- To date, approximately 4,300 cubic yards (CY) of soil have been excavated from the first of 20 source areas, along with the installation of 52 additional monitoring wells and 3 supply wells.
- In Fall 2019, a subsidiary of CN railroad, WCL, applied for wetland fill permits from the Corps and IDEM to construct a pet coke staging area located immediately adjacent to the former DuPont facility, the Natural Area, and a residential area of the USS Lead Site.
- Congressional Interest: Rep. Visclosky follows site developments closely. The entire Indiana delegation is updated on an as needed basis.

TALKING POINTS:

- EPA will continue to oversee the comprehensive soil and groundwater cleanup at the site as cleanup activities resume in the Spring of 2020. Final cleanup and redevelopment activities are expected to be completed by 2024.
- The current owner's proposed redevelopment plans for the property that include building a 1 million square foot distribution warehouse. The proposed development could generate over 1,000 permanent on-site jobs with more than 1,300 city wide and construction jobs also expected.